

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

March 20, 2020

On March 20, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. the Board of City Commissioners met via telephone, with Mayor Bakken present in the Mayor's Conference Room of the City/County Office Building, located at 221 N. 5th St. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the closing of the City of Bismarck offices.

Those present included: Commissioner Marquardt (telephone), Commissioner Zenker (telephone), Commissioner Guy (telephone) and Commissioner Oban (telephone).

Commissioner Zenker expressed his concerns about building inspectors not working and inspection services being compromised.

City Attorney Jannelle Combs provided the Commission with Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health (BBPH) requirements for anyone experiencing symptoms of the virus. The person will need to be isolated for seven days along with anyone else living in the household. After the ill person has recovered, everyone in the home will need to be quarantined for 14 days. She stated with these new guidelines, City staff could experience issues.

City Administrator Keith Hunke stated they were looking at possibly closing all City offices for one week, March 20-27, 2020. He stated they planned to reevaluate the situation on March 26, 2020.

Commissioner Guy asked if they planned on stopping government services during the proposed time.

Administrator Hunke identified the essential services that would not stop during the closure. These departments included: Fire, police, the Central Dakota Communications Center (CenCom) and all sections of Public Works. Administrator Hunke stated there would not be a total halt of work, and that some employees will be sent home, some will work from home and some will be reassigned to other job duties.

Attorney Combs stated this plan would affect everyone working for the City and any employee could be asked to perform essential services outside of

their daily tasks. She stated that these suggestions are based on the guidelines set by the CDC to limit contamination.

Commissioner Marquardt made a motion to move forward with the recommendations provided by the Administration Department to close all City offices for one week to determine COVID-19 tasks and to re-evaluate the situation on March 26, 2020.

Commissioner Oban seconded the motion and requested there be more clarity on what staff is doing at the next commission meeting on March 24, 2020. Upon a roll call vote, Commissioner Marquart, Guy, Oban and President Bakken, aye, Commissioner Zenker, nay.

Administrator Hunke advised the Commission that special meetings would take place in the future if needed.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.